



Oct. 14, 2011

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#### **Ferries gears up after 60 years**

In honor of our 60 years of service, customers can purchase a memento of the ferry system. There are many items to choose from, and the proceeds help benefit our marine highways. WSF and its advertising and marketing company Trans4media have launched [FerryGear.com](http://FerryGear.com), where official WSF merchandise is for sale, including a Limited Edition Rub with Love® from famed Seattle restaurateur Tom Douglas. There are also t-shirts, mugs, stainless steel water bottles, baseball caps, and lapel pins available. The ferry merchandise is also for sale in the galleys on the vessels, Colman Dock News in Seattle, and the Cheesecake Café at the Anacortes terminal. I hope you get an opportunity to check out the merchandise.

#### **Kennewick sea trials**

If you happened to be in the right place at the right time, you may have caught a glimpse of the newest state ferry sailing around Puget Sound. Last week, builder Vigor Shipyards put the Kennewick to the test in sea trials. This past Wednesday Vigor demonstrated the Kennewick to WSF and the U.S. Coast Guard in sea trials. WSF is tentatively scheduled to accept delivery of the Kennewick from Vigor by the end of the month. Both WSF and Vigor have learned great lessons in this construction project as demonstrated by the delivery of a class of vessels ahead of schedule and under budget. We plan to put the Kennewick into service in January 2012; the exact date depends on the progress of several weeks of post-delivery sea trials and crew familiarization. The Kennewick will serve the Port Townsend/Coupeville route while the Salish goes into standby status, so that WSF can operate the Kennewick during its warranty period.

#### **New WSF home page feature**

You may have already noticed an added feature to the WSF home page. Our popular spotlight feature now rotates content every few seconds. We will update this content regularly to feature our ferry-served communities and WSF activities. I encourage you to check it out at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries).

#### **Anacortes/San Juan Islands service update**

Last Friday, the 144-car Yakima was removed from service for repairs after maintenance crews discovered signs of abnormal wear on the journal bearing, which supports the propulsion shaft. The current plan is to repair the damaged bearings as soon as possible. On Tuesday, we discovered that our backup vessel, the 34-car Hiyu, needed a repair to its fire pump shaft. In the meantime, the 64-car Chetzemoka had finished its peak season service at the Port Townsend/Coupeville route. The Chetzemoka's scheduled shipyard period was delayed and the vessel was temporarily assigned to serve as the inter-island vessel in the San Juan Islands. I want to thank our customers for their patience as we make these adjustments. I also want to recognize Dakota Creek Industries for quickly amending the

Chetzemoka shipyard schedule to allow the ferry to serve the San Juan Islands this week. WSF staff are working exceptionally hard to get these vessels back into service and to mitigate service impacts.

### **Interferry appointment and conference**

I attended the 36<sup>th</sup> annual Interferry Conference in Barcelona, Spain, Oct. 3-6, at my own expense. The conference was attended by 280 delegates from 33 countries. This was my first meeting after being elected to serve on the Interferry board. The focus of the first day was on fuel, which included discussions on conservation, alternative fuel sources and liquefied natural gas. We also got an opportunity to talk about transportation initiatives, including supporting the shipbuilding industry and funding of infrastructure improvements. For more information and to view the presentations, visit [www.interferry.com/conferences/2011papers](http://www.interferry.com/conferences/2011papers).

### **First meeting of the MTSNAC**

As I mentioned in August, I was honored to be appointed by U.S. Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood to a new, 29-member Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC), established to advise the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) on matters relating to marine transportation. I met with the MTSNAC for the first time on Oct. 12 and 13 in Washington, D.C. on a fully-sponsored trip. I was impressed with the substance and depth of the discussions at this initial meeting. We had a very frank conversation with Secretary LaHood and he provided clear direction for the committee to look at key maritime issues. This first meeting focused on two main topics: the first was identifying ways to improve the nation's marine highway system and have it play a more predominant role as the third leg of the transportation infrastructure alongside roads and rail; the second was to improve funding for necessary shipbuilding. Both of these issues have the potential to improve ferry system and maritime standing within the USDOT. I look forward to participation in the future work of this national advisory council.

### **Connecting Washington Task Force meeting**

On Tuesday, WSF Deputy Chiefs George Capacci and Jean Baker attended the third meeting of the Connecting Washington Task Force, a group Governor Gregoire formed to review statewide transportation needs and recommend the most promising investment options and revenue sources to address top priorities. The group discussed transportation investment principles, categories of investment, and relative priorities for those categories, as well as jobs and economic development. The meeting materials are available at [www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/connectwa.asp](http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/transportation/connectwa.asp).

### **Anacortes terminal preservation**

For photos of the Anacortes ferry terminal preservation work visit [www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157626262951227](http://www.flickr.com/photos/wsdot/sets/72157626262951227). You may also get more information on the project page at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr20/anacortesroof/](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr20/anacortesroof/).

### **Sharing your ferry tales**

Last month we asked you to send in your "ferry tales" – experiences and memories you have of riding Washington state ferries over our 60-year history. We will be sharing some of our favorites over the next few months. Read the first selection, about an "opportunity of a lifetime" on our blog at <http://wsdotferries.blogspot.com/>. We're still taking submissions; more information is available at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2011/09/Tales\\_092311.htm](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/News/2011/09/Tales_092311.htm).

### **Next Week:**

- Presentation to Joint Transportation Committee
- Presentations to Transportation Commission
- Monthly MEBA meeting

David Moseley's weekly updates are available on the WSDOT Ferries Division website at [www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/ferries/weekly).

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